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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORTCOUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC Military Information from Riesa and the Zeithain Training AreaEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 November 1953 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 19 October 1953, the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa quartered about 1,000 men who were red-bordered black epaulets, some of them with tank insignia. The installation was about 85 percent occupied. Only little activity was observed. The unit involved still conducted its training in the Zeithain troop training area. On 7 October, trucks loaded with billeting equipment and coming from the direction of Zeithain entered the barracks installation. On 14 October, 60 to 80 air force soldiers training with carbines and 25X1-guns in the area behind the installation. On 15 October, sedans occupied by officers, and three armored scout cars were seen leaving the installation toward Zeithain. On 17 October, about 15 trucks, each of them occupied by 25 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, were seen leaving the barracks in the same direction. 25X1

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2. On 10 October, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne quartered about 1,000 men. Sentries seen at the installation wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. No training activity was observed. On 7 October, 12 T 34/85 tanks were seen leaving the barracks installation toward Zeithain. They were identified on tank hulls. On the same day, about 8 trucks, each occupied by 20 to 25 men with red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia, were seen leaving the installation toward Zeithain. Other motor vehicle identified near the barracks installation. 25X1

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3. About 8 p.m. on 1 October, 12 rocket launchers of an estimated caliber of 132-mm leave Camp Zeithain toward Groeditz. About 10 p.m. on 6 October, 30 to 35 JS and about 20 T 34/85 tanks engaged in driving p25X1-cars in the Groeditz-Pulsen area. The tanks proceeded at distances of 3 to 6 meters, one soldier with a large flashlight walking in front of each tank. They were identified on T 34/85 tanks and on JS-I tanks. From 8 to 10 x 4-wheeled armored scout cars were also seen in this area. On 8 October, 18 to 20 tanks each mounted by 6 infantry soldiers proceeding from Zeithain toward Groeditz. About 11 a.m. 25X1

on 10 October, 20 to 24 trucks with a very wide superstructure covered by tarpaulins, apparently rocket launchers, proceeded from the direction of Oschatz toward Zeithain. On 13 October, 160 to 180 engineer 25X1

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troops practicing with 3 rowing boats and 4 motor boats on the Elbe River.

the engineers practiced the ferrying of infantry units. However, no infantry soldiers were observed. About 2 p.m. on 15 October, 15 to 18 armored personnel carriers, each mounting a heavy and two light machine guns and occupied by five personnel, were seen proceeding from the direction of Zeithain toward Oschatz.

On 16 October, 12 to 15 trucks, each towing 37-mm AA guns, and 15 to 18 trucks, each towing 76-mm AT guns, proceeded from Zeithain toward Riesa. On the same day, several tanks crossing the Elbe River near Strehla. Engineers ferried JS-I tanks

on a ferry consisting of three pontoons. About 5 p.m. on 17 October, 14 T-34 tanks of the KVP

seen proceeding from Krainitz (sic) to Zeithain. About 6 p.m. on the same day,

three KVP SJ-I tanks

4. Between 22 and 28 September, convoys of 5 to 40 trucks were observed passing through Riesa from north to south at day and at night. Some of the trucks towed 120-mm mortars and 47-mm AT guns. Other were loaded with field kitchens and billeting equipment.

5. After 28 September, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne quartered at least 500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some of them with tank insignia and an air force detail of about 15 men.

at least 20 T 34/85 tanks and several truck convoys arrived at the installation between 26 and 28 September. On 29 September, determined from tank trails that the unit had come from the bridge over the Elbe River, and entered the installation on Jahn Strasse. On 7 October, an undetermined number of trucks occupied by a total of about 100 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some of them with tank insignia, entered the installation.

the unit involved had come from an exercise. At 10:20 a.m. on 11 October, about 200 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets were seen leaving the installation toward the town.

6. On 14 October, the Mudra Kaserne quartered an estimated 800 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and tank insignia, and about 400 men who wore black-bordered black epaulets some of them with signal insignia. On 4 October, an obstacle course was under construction in the billeting area; a telephone line extending from the installation via Pausitzer Weg toward Mergendorf was also under construction. On 11 October, an olive drab pontoon in front of a shed which, housed more pontoons.

7. About 11:30 a.m. on 7 October, 3 armored personnel carriers each towing a 57-mm AT gun and a truck towing a field kitchen were seen proceeding toward the Elbe River bridge. About 2 p.m. on 10 October, 3 armored scout cars, 3 radio trucks, 4 trucks, 1 jeep, 1 sidecar motorcycle, 1 jeep with trailer, truck trucks and 40 personnel with black-bordered black epaulets were entrained at the Riesa railroad station.

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8. On 19 October, [redacted] 15 half-track vehicles, 6 x 4-wheeled armored scout cars and a military band near the main gate of Camp Zeithain. Four emplaced 37-mm AA guns were seen south of the KVP barracks installation. The crews of the guns were quartered in tents nearby. 25X1
9. On 19 October, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne quartered 250 to 300 personnel who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. At darkness, the quartering buildings on Lommatscher Strasse were lighted 40 percent, and the large block in the middle of the billeting area was lighted 70 percent. No training activities were observed. The noise of hammering was heard in garages. [redacted] 25X1
10. On 19 October, the Mudra Kaserne quartered about 400 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. At darkness, about 50 percent of the windows of the quartering buildings were lighted. [redacted] 10 pontoon and a pile of planks in front of the vehicle garages. No training activity was observed. [redacted] 10 trucks and several sedans and jeeps in the billeting area. [redacted] 25X1
11. On 10 October, the Mudra Kaserne was occupied by personnel 10 percent of whom wore black-bordered black epaulets and 90 percent red-bordered black epaulets, about 30 percent with artillery insignia. At darkness, the quartering buildings were about 80 percent lighted. The morning of 5 October, [redacted] 7 trucks, 1 tank truck, 1 sedan, 70 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia doing close order drill, 100 men engaged in various training activities and another detail of 18 men with black-bordered black epaulets doing maintenance work on engineer equipment. The afternoon of 6 October, [redacted] 75 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia entering the installation; 2 trucks each occupied by about 25 men left the installation, and 17 men were seen doing close order drill in the billeting area. Two 6-wheeled armored personnel carriers [redacted] entered the installation. [redacted] 25X1
12. On 6 October, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne quartered about 1,100 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets, 60 percent of them with tank insignia, and about 25 uniformed women. At darkness, the quartering buildings were about 70 percent lighted. Training activity observed was light. Three trucks and 2 sedans were seen in the billeting area, 9 T-34 tanks [redacted] were observed leaving the installation, while 4 trucks occupied by a total of about 100 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets some of them with tank insignia entered the installation. About 45 men with red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia were seen doing close order drill and practicing close combat. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] Comment. The report [redacted]

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confirms the bulk of the 9th Tank Div in the Riesa-Zeithain area until mid-October. It was previously known that the component units of this division continuously rotate between their barracks installations and the Zeithain training area nearby. The report indicates that the units conducted routine training activities and that exercises at division level were also held in the Zeithain-Grossenhain-Koenigsbrueck area. According to other reports, these exercises in which air units and elements of the division which had come from Koenigsbrueck participated took place in late September and early October in the Zeithain-Grossenhain-Koenigsbrueck area. In detail, the information available indicates that the 286th Engr Bn (US) had been at the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa until 19 October 1953 and that the unidentified signal battalion was probably also stationed there prior to that date. [redacted]

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[redacted] However, it is believed that the 108th Tank Regt is stationed at the Mudra Kaserne and the 70 Gds HV Tank SF Regt at the von-Goltz Kaserne.

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